## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer

## **Press Release**

**August 16, 2016**Contact: Michael Madia (631) 854-1111



## PRESIDING OFFICER GREGORY HELPS UJIMA SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATE ANOTHER SUCESSFUL YEAR



Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory speaks to attendees of the closing dinner for the Town of Babylon's Ujima Summer Minority Internship Program.

Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory recently helped the Ujima Summer Minority Internship Program celebrate another successful year. After hosting an intern in his Amityville office this summer, Presiding Officer Gregory spoke at the program's closing dinner, held at the Huntington Hilton on Tuesday, August 4.

The Ujima Program provides minority high school students who live in the Town of Babylon and who are in the top half of their class with a unique opportunity to participate in local government. Through handson learning, students get to see how government and community interests align, and the many types of jobs that make that happen. Students in the program interact with and shadow elected officials and town employees such as the town supervisor, legislators, councilmembers, attorneys, social workers, inspectors, and various department heads and are trained in areas such as records management, complaint resolution, constituent services and scheduling. Interns receive training and mentorship, which serves to foster their interest in community development.

"As I am a former member of the Ujima committee, this program holds a place close to my heart," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "Giving a 'behind-the-scenes' look to kids who show interest in learning more about how local government functions and who are willing to put in the work gives them a head start on their path to a bright future."

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